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The Burlington File

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ALAN PEMBERTON – A BRIEF SYNOPSIS



Alan Pemberton (full name Colonel Alan Brooke Pemberton CVO MBE Service No. 235904 ^[1] Battalion Coldstream Guards in the British Army in the Second World War. He saw action in Europe and was critically wounded in the arm on 13 February 1944 while engaged in intense fighting ^[2] at Monte Cassino, Lazio, Italy. Despite that, he saw further action in 1945 as the allies advanced from Nijmegen ^[4] into Germany.

After the Second World War ended, Alan Pemberton continued his distinguished career by seeing further action serving in Palestine (1946/47) and Malaya (1948/53). In Malaya he fought in the guerrilla war known as the Malayan Emergency.

Malayan Emergency and was promoted to ADC to Field Marshall Sir Gerald Walter Robert Templer who defeated the Malayan rebels, the Malayan National Liberation Army.

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Apart from serving in the UK after leaving Malaya, Alan Pemberton had various postings in the UK (including Jamaica and British Guiana) from 1956 to 1963. He retired from the British Army on the honorary rank of Colonel [5]. After that, he worked with British Intelligence, both MI5 and MI6, and the Department of other countries' intelligence agencies including the USA's CIA.

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From 1970 through to 1990 Alan Pemberton was the chairman (and director) of an "unconventional" Diversified Corporate Services Limited (DCS) [6] which he founded. DCS was an English company (990443) and a clandestine Section within MI6. DCS had subsidiary, associated and related or affiliated companies around the world during its corporate existence. It acted as a front or cut-out [7] for MI6 throughout the nineteen seventies and eighties. Even DCS itself was never approachable other than through a cut-out including when fronting for the USA Central Intelligence Agency [8].

DCS was unconventional or irregular as noted in an article [12] by Duncan Campbell in the New Statesman:

"First, using a team of specialists in surveillance, 'surreptitious entry', bugging, tapping, debugging, provided training for intelligence agencies of other governments which HMG was anxious to assess its 'arm's length'. Second, DCS employees were able to 'freelance' for the Secret Service (MI6) carry out operations too hot for official involvement. ... it was an 'unusual' way for MI6 to work - though this context seems to be a euphemism for 'irregular', rather than an index of rarity. DCS was 'never handed through a cut-out'. However, operational reports, once completed, would be 'handed direct' to MI6."

In the New Statesman article [12], Duncan Campbell highlighted a few of the areas that DCS worked in. DCS group actually operated in all the Five Eyes countries, the Caribbean (notably the Bahamas), Germany, Oman, Nigeria, Rhodesia, South Africa, Sudan, Iran and most Middle Eastern countries. The Statesman article [12] by Duncan Campbell also contained an explanation of just how difficult it was to be on whose side of which conflict or political turmoil DCS was on. If nothing else, unlike the unassuming of the mild-mannered Alan Pemberton, DCS was controversial and habitually causing ripples in the world of disinformation underlying world headlines from 1970 to 1990.

For example, DCS advised Harold Wilson in his second term of office (1974/76) about the Clock Tower involving one of its directors (Colonel Peter John Goss [11]) and alleged MI5 surveillance and how DCS later advised Robert Mugabe how to avoid MI6 surveillance during the notorious Commonwealth Government Meeting in 1979 at Lancaster House. Maybe these intriguing assignments were simply bluff operations.

Not dissimilarly, it was well-nigh impossible to determine whether DCS was disrupting and/or facilitating investigations into what later became known as the Iran–Contra scandal. That sentiment is echoed by a recruit, Bill Fairclough, who worked with Alan Pemberton in the nineteen seventies and eighties. He was an agent for both MI6 and the CIA (and therefore by default DCS) and in the mid-nineteen eighties was involved in investigations into what later became known as the Iran–Contra scandal.

According to Bill Fairclough, as detailed further in his biographies called The Burlington Files, in the eighties it was difficult to discern who knew what and who was on whose side in both the CIA and the UK up to the Iran–Contra scandal which nearly unseated Ronald Reagan. Those factions investigating the allegations of wrongdoing (including the FBI, MI6 and Faire Sans Dire's Bill Fairclough and Barry under surveillance as were those carrying out that surveillance. It was as though Western intelligence was in its own tail in ever increasing circles and had lost not only the plot and but also its moral compass.

DCS came in for much criticism both from within MI5 and MI6 and government circles. Its modus operandi of various corporate veils depending on the country of operation seemed inappropriate for covert activity. For example, in the UK it appeared to conform with most prevailing Companies Act disclosures thereby compromising its own security. Similarly, its operations outside the UK, such as in the Caribbean where Alan Pemberton had gathered much experience, were conducted in accordance with whatever threats

laws applied thereto. Accordingly, setting aside disinformation, unnecessary disclosures about the DCS or who worked in it were made around the globe.

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Indeed, as noted in the New Statesman article ^[12] by Duncan Campbell referred to above, lists of employees, recruits, shareholders and directors over two decades were in the public domain and in the public domain. Who of the secret world” within which DCS operated. Maybe that is why Alan Pemberton opted for a vehicle when helping Barrie Northend Parkes BEM and Bill Fairclough to establish Faire Sans Dire much of its life, even when supported by corporate vehicles, up until 2010 Faire Sans Dire was in fact an unincorporated organisation with no visible public presence and no reporting requirements privately and when required to tax authorities such as the Inland Revenue.

[Social Links](#) The DCS model adopted by MI6 was to be ditched although other corporate associations with British Intelligence for other purposes such as through Hakluyt & Company continue to this day. Just why the DCS company liability model was adopted ab initio remains a mystery. The likelihood of lawsuits against DCS given its sponsor. Furthermore, limited liability protection wasn't much of a defence against abduction, imprisonment, torture or murder at the hands of some despotic government.

Authors Jonathan Black and Patrick Fitzgerald ^[15] who co-wrote *British Intelligence and Cover Operations 1945-1983* were also critical of DCS because they saw it as becoming an embarrassment to MI6 (see p 100). They cite 1973 when *The Observer*, with DCS input, allegedly explained in depth how some of the most sophisticated surveillance equipment worked ^[20].

Nevertheless, notwithstanding the criticism, Alan Pemberton must have been assessed by the powers that be as having done more right than wrong as he was made a Commander of The Royal Victorian Order (CVO) in 1991. Earlier in 1961 ^[14] he had been made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) and subsequently a member of the Queen's Bodyguard of The Yeomen of the Guard.

DCS had been incorporated by Alan Pemberton on 29 September 1970 and almost 20 years later on 20 April 1989. From its incorporation until its dissolution, DCS was controlled by Alan Pemberton who ostensibly held over 70% of its share capital. Some of the more noteworthy “mysterious” DCS shareholders, employees or recruits listed in Companies House records (containing full and detailed accounts) included:

- Colonel Peter John Goss (Special Forces) ^[11] who worked in British Intelligence in Ulster, the Cabinet Office and being a member of the Joint Intelligence Committee (United Kingdom) was involved in the Clockwork Orange plot.
- Brigadier Peter 'Scrubber' Stewart-Richardson ^[16], a maverick if not eccentric British officer who refused permission to join the Afghan Mujahideen to fight the Russians.
- Major General John Evelyn Anderson KBE who was, inter alia, commander of the British Signals as Signals Officer-in-Chief until his retirement in 1972.
- John Richard Pilkington ^[12] and Roy Astley Richards OBE ^[17] (Winston Churchill's bodyguard) both acknowledged they had worked in DCS for MI6.
- Major Freddy Mace ^[12] was a covert entry specialist better described as a cat burglar and included sabotage, silent killing, interrogation and technical intrusion. Apart from being a burglar he was also a director of J Donne Holdings Limited ^[21] which despite its covert calling for secrecy ^[22] in 1977 when penetrating questions were raised about its ties with the Admiralty Surface Establishment at Funtington, near Chichester.

As DCS was being wound down in 1989/90 and for a short while after its dissolution, Alan Pemberton was operating commercially as a director in companies such as Berkeley Travel Limited ^[18] and Able

Limited ^[19] and later retired in the mid nineteen nineties.

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References

[1]

[Get The Book](#) [www.iwm.org.uk](#) Alan Pemberton's oral account of his life in the British Army in his own words

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[2]

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A first-hand account of the fierce fighting at Monte Ornitto when the Nazis tried to retake Monte 1944

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[3]

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[4]

[www.saak.nl](#) In 1944 Nijmegen was a key strategic target for the Allies' advance into Germany in the Second World War and featured in Richard Attenborough's 1977 film "A Bridge Too Far"

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[5]

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Alan Pemberton is listed at Reference 1728 (and elsewhere) in the official list of members of the 1946 - 1970.

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[6]

[www.scribd.com](#) All the corporate filings including full detailed audited statutory accounts lodge Companies House from 1970 to 1989

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[7]

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[8]

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www.duncancampbell.org An article in the New Statesman entitled "Salesman of the secret world" Campbell dated 22 February 1980 about DCS and Alan Pemberton

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[11]

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www.telegraph.co.uk Obituary of Brigadier Peter 'Scrubber' Stewart-Richardson

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[17]

www.express.co.uk An interesting newspaper article about Roy Astley Richards

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[20]

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This is apparently the article in question which does not seem to live up to what was claimed

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[21]

[opencorporates.com](#)

[Corporate records of J. Donne Holdings Limited](#)

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[22]

[hansard.parliament.uk](#)

There have been no contracts between the Admiralty Surface Weapons Establishment at Funtingt and John Donne Holdings.

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